IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA NORTHERN DIVISION

MAXIE MCNABB,)
Plaintiff,)
v.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:06cv664-MHT
SANDERS LEAD COMPANY, INC.,)
Defendant.))

DEFENDANT'S BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF ITS MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

COMES NOW, Defendant Sanders Lead Company, Inc. ("Sanders Lead"),by and through the undersigned counsel of record, and moves this Honorable Court to enter summary judgment in Defendant's favor pursuant to Rule 56 of the *Federal Rules of Civil Procedure*. As grounds therefore, Sanders Lead submits the following Brief in Support of its Motion for Summary Judgment. Sanders Lead alleges that no genuine issues of material fact exist and Defendant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. Accordingly, Sanders Lead states as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

In his complaint, Plaintiff, Maxie McNabb, attempts to bring claims against Sanders Lead under "the Age Discrimination in Employment Act," (ADEA) as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 621, et seq., 29 U.S.C. §§ 215 and 216, and 42 U.S.C. §2000e-3 (a) and a retaliation claim for Sanders Lead allegedly not rehiring him months after he was discharged. As shown below, however, Mr. McNabb cannot present the Court sufficient evidence to

support his claims against Sanders Lead. Consequently, Sanders Lead is entitled to summary judgment on each and every claim asserted against it by Mr. McNabb.

II STATEMENT OF FACTS

According to Plaintiff Maxie McNabb, he began working for Sanders Lead as a laborer in the Casting and Alloy Department in August of 1992. *See Plaintiff's Complaint, p. 2,* ¶ 7. Mr. McNabb remained a laborer for most of his career at Sanders Lead with the exception of a period of time in 1998 to 1999 when he worked in the laundry department. *See Exhibit 1 the Affidavit of Edgar Fannin, p. 1,* ¶ 5. At no time during his employment, was he ever under an employment contract.

Over the course of his employment, Mr. McNabb received several disciplinary warnings from his supervisors. On April 21, 1997, Mr. McNabb received a notice for extending break periods. See attached exhibit 2. On May 17, 1997, Mr. McNabb received a notice for an unexcused absence. See attached exhibit 2. On September 28, 1997, Mr. McNabb received another notice for an unexcused absence. See attached exhibit 3. On October 11 and October 22, Mr. McNabb received a notice for two other unexcused absences. See attached exhibit 3. On March 4, 1998, he received a notice for failure to see a required training film. See attached exhibit 4. On April 4, 1998, Mr. McNabb received a notice improperly doing his job that included a remark about the seriousness of this violation. See attached exhibit 5. On April 27, 1998, Mr. McNabb received a notice for an unexcused absence. See attached exhibit 5. On June 29, 1998, Mr. McNabb received a notice for an unexcused absence and was suspended for three days. See attached exhibit 6. On August 24, 1998, he received a warning for loitering during working

hours. See attached exhibit 6. On November 22, 1998, he received a warning for another unexcused absence. See attached exhibit 7. On November 27, 1998, he received another warning for an unexcused absence. See attached exhibit 8. On March 1, 1999 he received a warning for leaving his assigned work station without permission. See attached exhibit 9. On March 15, 1999 he received a warning for arriving late for his assigned shift. See attached exhibit 9. On September 4, 1999, he received a warning for excessive tardiness. See attached exhibit 7. On September 6, 1999, he received another warning for excessive tardiness. See attached exhibit 8. On January 21, 2000, Mr. McNabb received a notice for not calling in or coming in to work on the previous day. See attached Exhibit 10. On March 24, 2000, Mr. McNabb received another notice for not calling in or coming in to work on the previous day. See attached Exhibit 11. On June 18, 2000, Mr. McNabb received yet another notice for not calling in or coming in to work. See attached Exhibit 11. On November 27, 2000, he received a warning for tardiness. See attached Exhibit 12. On December 28, 2000, he received another warning for an unexcused absence. See attached Exhibit 12. On January 25, 2001 he received another warning for an unexcused absence. See attached Exhibit 13. On March 27, 2001, Mr. McNabb received a warning for insubordination and misconduct. See attached Exhibit 13. On March 29, 2001, Mr. McNabb received another warning for insubordination and misconduct. See attached Exhibit 14. On May 7, 2001, Mr. McNabb received another notice for not calling in or coming in to work on the previous day. See attached Exhibit 14. On July 26, 2001, Mr. McNabb received a warning for being late to work. See attached Exhibit 15. On August 4, 2001, Mr. McNabb received another warning for being

late to work. See attached Exhibit 15. On March 7, 2002, he received another warning for an unexcused absence. See attached Exhibit 16. On May 1, 2002, he received yet another warning for an unexcused absence and was suspended for three days without pay. See attached Exhibit 17. On May 31, 2002, Mr. McNabb received a warning for being late to work. See attached Exhibit 18. On October 15, 2002, he received another warning for an unexcused absence. See attached Exhibit 18. On November 19, 2002, Mr. McNabb received a warning for being late to work. See attached Exhibit 19. On December 11, 2002, Mr. McNabb received a warning for smoking in the bathroom and was sent home. See attached Exhibit 19. On November 19, 2002, Mr. McNabb received another warning for being late to work. See attached Exhibit 20. On May 5, 2003, he received another warning for an unexcused absence. See attached Exhibit 20. On May 15, 2003, Mr. McNabb received a warning for failing to go for his six month arsenic physical. See attached Exhibit 21. On May 18, 2003, Mr. McNabb received another warning for being late to work. See attached Exhibit 21. On July 6, 2003, he received another warning for an unexcused absence. See attached Exhibit 22. On August 22, 2003, Mr. McNabb received a warning for an unexcused absence and falsification of documents. See attached Exhibit 22. On September 25, 2003, he received another warning for an unexcused absence. See attached exhibit 23. On November 15, 2003, Mr. McNabb received a warning for not coming to work. See attached exhibit 24. On January 14, 2004. he received another warning for an unexcused absence. See attached exhibit 24. On February 8, 2004, Mr. McNabb received another warning for excessive tardiness. See attached exhibit 25. On April 10, 2004, he received another warning for an unexcused

absence. See attached exhibit 25. On May 13, 2004, he received yet another warning for an unexcused absence. See attached exhibit 26. On June 7, 2004 Mr. McNabb received another warning for unexcused absences on June 5 and June 6 of 2004. See attached exhibit 26. On July 8, 2004, he received a warning for being late. See attached exhibit 27. On July 18, 2004, Mr. McNabb received a notice for excessive absenteeism and was suspended for three days without pay. See attached exhibit 28. On October 7, 2004 Mr. McNabb received another notice for excessive absenteeism and was again suspended for three days without pay. See attached exhibit 27. On March 1, 2005, he received a notice for being absent without cause. A note concerning his bad attitude was made by Edgar Fannin. See attached exhibit 29. On March 30, 2005, he received a notice for misconduct and he was sent home. See attached exhibit 29. On May 2, 2005 Mr. McNabb received a notice for poor workmanship and negligence that could lead to a work stoppage. Another note was made regarding Mr. McNabb being a problem employee. See attached exhibit 30. In addition to the several warning notices given to Mr. McNabb, Edgar Fannin, the department head of casting and alloy, also held several discussions where he warned Mr. McNabb his behavior, work ethic, attendance, insubordination, and tardiness. See Affidavit of Edgar Fannin, p. 3, ¶ 12.

In January of 2006, management of Sanders Lead instituted a work force reduction in order to reduce expenses. *See Exhibit 31, Affidavit of Bart Sanders, p. 1,* ¶ 3. Employees who had discipline problems, poor work ethic, and/or unsatisfactory production were looked at first. *See Affidavit of Bart Sanders, p. 1,* ¶ 4, and also Affidavit of Edgar Fannin, p. 1, ¶ 6. Mr. McNabb's characteristics fit in all three categories and he was subsequently

discharged. See Affidavit of Edgar Fannin, p. 1, ¶ 5. Prior to the reduction, Edgar Fannin, Mr. McNabb's supervisor, approached Mr. McNabb and discussed the situation with him. Mr. McNabb was agreeable to the discharge due to the difficulty he had in performing the job. See Affidavit of Edgar Fannin, p. 2, ¶ 7. Additionally, three other laborers in Mr. McNabb's department were discharged. Of those employees, one was 19 and one was 21. See Affidavit of Edgar Fannin, p. 2, ¶ 8.

Mr. McNabb states in his complaint that he was terminated because of his age, simply because he claims he "always performed his duties and responsibilities in a satisfactory manner." See Plaintiff's Complaint, p. 2, ¶ 7. Mr. McNabb does not have any other evidence to support his claim he was terminated because of his age. On or about March 31, 2006, Mr. McNabb filed a complaint for age discrimination with the EEOC. See Plaintiff's Complaint, p. 3, ¶ 11. That complaint was dismissed by the EEOC on June 6, 2006 as the EEOC was unable to conclude that the information obtained established any violation of the statute. See attached Exhibit 32, EEOC Dismissal and Notice of Rights.

On May 24, 2006, Mr. McNabb visited Sam Kitchens, the personnel manager of Sanders Lead, and discussed the possibility of coming back to work. *See Exhibit 33, Affidavit of Sam Kitchens, p. 2,* ¶ 9. At that time, Sanders Lead was not hiring, and due to Mr. McNabb's previous work history, he would not likely have been hired even if Sanders Lead was hiring. *See Affidavit of Sam Kitchens, p. 2,* ¶ 12, and also Affidavit of Edgar Fannin, p. 2, ¶ 11. In Mr. McNabb's complaint, he alleges that he "reapplied for a position with Sanders Lead and was denied a position which [sic] Sanders Lead had represented was open." *See Plaintiff's Complaint, p. 4,* ¶ 18. The representation Mr. McNabb is

referring to is an advertisement placed in the Troy Messenger, Troy's local newspaper, that states Sanders Lead was seeking employees for the furnace department and the casting and alloy department. That ad was placed March 10, 2006, two months and two weeks prior to Mr. McNabb applying for a job. See Affidavit of Sam Kitchens, p. 2, ¶ 12. Mr. McNabb does not have any other evidence to support his claim he was retaliated against by Sanders Lead not rehiring him after he reapplied.

III STANDARD OF REVIEW

On a motion for summary judgment, the court must assess the proof in order to determine whether there is a genuine need for a trial. *See Mulhall v. Advance Security, Inc.*, 19 F.3d 586, 590 (11th Cir. 1994). Summary Judgment is appropriate only if the record shows that there is no genuine issue as to any material fact. *See id.;* Fed R. Civ. P. 56(c). "Material facts are those that might affect the outcome of the suit under governing law." *Id.* "All justifiable inferences about the facts must be resolved in favor of the non-movant." *Id.* (citations omitted). "Where the record taken as a whole could not lead a rationale trier of fact to find for the non-moving party, there is no "genuine issue for trial." *Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co. v. Zenith Radio Corp.*, 475 U.S. 574, 587 (1986) (quoting *First Nat'l Bank of Arizona v. Cities Serv. Co.*, 391 U.S. 253, 289 (1968)).

Rule 56(c) of the *Federal Rules of Civil Procedure* "mandates the entry of summary judgment, after adequate time for discovery and upon motion, against a party who fails to make a showing sufficient to establish the existence of an element essential to that party's case, and on which that party will bear the burden of proof at trial." *Beck v. City of Haleyville*, *Alabma*, 127 F. Supp. 2d 1197, 1205 (N.D. Ala 2001)(quoting *Celotex Corp. v.*

Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 322-323, 106 S. Ct. 2548, 91 L. Ed. 2d 265 (1986)). "In such a situation, there can be no genuine issue as to any material fact, since the complete failure of proof concerning an essential element of the non-moving party's case necessarily renders all other facts immaterial." Id.

IV ARGUMENT AGAINST PLAINTIFF'S AGE DISCRIMINATION CLAIM

The plaintiff in an ADEA case "bears the ultimate burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that age was a determining factor in the employer's decision to dismiss him." Zaben v. Air Product Chemicals, Inc., 129 F.3d 1453, 1457 (11th Cir. 1997)(citing Clark v.Coats & Clark, Inc. 990 F.2d 1217, 1226 (11th Cir. 1993)). To survive a motion for summary judgment, a plaintiff bringing an ADEA claim "must first establish a prima facie case of age discrimination" either "by presenting direct evidence of discriminatory intent, such as age-biased statements made by the decision-maker . . . [or] by presenting circumstantial evidence which complies with the test set forth by the Supreme Court in McDonnell Douglas Corp. v. Green, 411 U.S. 792 (1973)." Id. (other citations omitted).

If a plaintiff is successful in establishing a prima facie case, "the burden shifts to the employer to articulate a legitimate nondiscriminatory reason for the plaintiff's discharge." Id. (citing Clark, 990 F.2d at 1227). If the employer meets this burden of production, "the burden shifts back to the plaintiff to 'introduce significantly probative evidence showing that the asserted reason is merely pretext for discrimination." Id. (quoting Clark, 990 F.2d at 1228).

In this case, Plaintiff has not presented any direct evidence of age discrimination.

A. Because Mr. McNabb cannot establish a prima facie case of age discrimination, Sanders Lead is entitled to summary judgment as a matter of law.

To establish a prima facie case of age discrimination, a plaintiff must establish four elements: (1) he was a member of the protected class; (2) he was qualified to do the job; (3) he was discharged; and (4) he was replaced by someone outside of the protected group. *Zaben*, 129 F.3d at 1457 (citing *Castle v. Sangamo Weston. Inc.*, 837 F.2d 1550, 1558 (11th Cir. 1980)). Plaintiff's case fails because he cannot establish the second and fourth elements.

Sanders Lead stipulates that Mr. McNabb was a member of the protected group and that he was discharged. However, Sanders Lead states that Mr. McNabb was no longer qualified to do the job. At one time, Mr. McNabb was qualified to do the job. However, over the years of his employment, Plaintiff developed discipline problems, poor work ethic, and unsatisfactory production. See Affidavit of Edgar Fannin, p. 1, ¶ 5.

Even if Plaintiff was qualified to do the job, he still cannot establish a prima facie case of age discrimination because he was not replaced by someone outside the protected group. In fact, Mr. McNabb was not replaced at all. Mr. McNabb's discharge was a result of a work force reduction enforced by the plant manager. See Affidavit of Bart Sanders, p.1, ¶ 5, and also p.2, ¶ 11.

B. Mr. McNabb cannot establish that Sanders Lead's legitimate, nondiscriminatory reason for his termination is pretextual.

Even assuming *arguendo*, that Plaintiff can establish a prima facie case of age discrimination, his claim is still subject to dismissal on summary judgment because he has no evidence that Sanders Lead's legitimate nondiscriminatory reasons for its decision to

terminate his employment are pretextual.

In order to survive summary judgment where, as here, the employer has proffered a legitimate nondiscriminatory reason for discharge, Plaintiff "must create a genuine issue of material fact as to whether the reasons advanced by [Sanders Lead] are pretextual." *Holiness v. Moore-Handley, Inc.,* 114 F.Supp.2d 1176, 1182 (N.D. Ala. 1999)(citing *Bogle v. Orange County Bd. Of County Com'rs,* 162 F.3d 653, 658 (11th Cir. 1998)). "In other words, [Mr. McNabb] must provide sufficient evidence to allow a reasonable fact finder to conclude that the proffered reasons were not actually the motivation for his discharge." *Id.* (citing *Combs v. Plantation Patterns,* 106 F.3d 1519, 1538 (11th Cir. 1997) *cert denied* 522 U.S. 1045 (1998)). Mr. McNabb may do this: "(1) by showing that the legitimate nondiscriminatory reasons should not be believed; or (2) by showing that, in light of all of the evidence, discriminatory reasons more likely motivated the decision than the proffered reasons." *Id.* (citations omitted).

In evaluating an employer's reason for terminating a plaintiff, courts note that "establishing pretext is not merely demonstrating that the employer made a mistake [in its assessment of an employee's job performance or conduct], but that the employer did not give an honest account of its behavior ." *Id.* (citation omitted). "[An] employer may fire an employee for a good reason, a bad reason, a reason based on erroneous facts, or for no reason at all, as long as its action is not for a discriminatory reason." *Holiness*, 114 F.Supp.2d at 1183 (quoting *Nix v. WLCY Radio/Rahll Communications*, 738 F.2d 1181, 1187 (11th Cir. 1984)).

The fact that an employee disagrees with a decision is irrelevant because an

employee's "perception of himself . . . is not relevant. It is the perception of the decision maker which is relevant." *Webb v. R&B Holding Company, Inc.*, 992 F.Supp. 1382, 1387 (S.D.Fla. 1998)(citing *Smith v. Flax*, 618 F.2d 1062, 1067 (4th Cir. 1980)). "The fact that an employee disagrees with an employer's evaluation of him does not prove pretext." *Id.* (citations omitted). Finally, "even if [a] [court agreed with [a plaintiff]" regarding his behavior, courts do not "substitute [their] own business judgment for that of the employer." *Id.* (citing *Alphin v. Sears Roebuck & Co.*, 940 F.2d 1497, 1501 (11th Cir. 1991)).

Plaintiff has not presented sufficient evidence to dispute the basis for Sanders Lead's legitimate nondiscriminatory reasons for terminating him.

In *Holiness*, *supra*, the plaintiff claimed that he had been terminated because of his race in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act 42 U.S.C. §2000e et seq. The defendant-employer asserted that it terminated the plaintiff, in part, because of the customer and co-worker complaints about the plaintiff. In support of his claim that the proffered reason was pretextual, the plaintiff offered his own statement that "he called the vendors with whom he dealt on a regular basis and they allegedly told him that they were satisfied with him." *Id.* at 1182. However the plaintiff failed to offer "substantial evidence indicating that [the defendant] did not actually receive complaints about him or that [the defendant] did not base its employment decision on such complaints . . ." *Id.* Instead, the plaintiff merely submitted "his assertions of his own good performance . . . [which were] insufficient to show that [the defendant's] proffered reasons [were] pretextual." *Id.* (citing *Holifiled v. Reno*, 115 F.3d 1555, 1565 (11th Cir. 1997)). Accordingly, the court concluded that summary judgment for the defendant-employer was appropriate.

Similarly, in *Webb, supra*, the employer asserted that it had discharged the plaintiff based on her insubordination as demonstrated by several complaints the employer received from customers and co-workers. *Webb*, 992 F.Supp. At 1387. The plaintiff did not dispute that the complaints were made, but claimed that the underlying contentions of the complaints, such as that she acted in a rude manner, were untrue. The court stated that this was insufficient to establish pretext, because it was nothing more than the "plaintiff's perception of [herself]" which "is not relevant." *Id.* Therefore summary judgment was awarded to the employer. *Id.*

In this case Sanders Lead discharged Mr. McNabb as part of a work force reduction for the following reasons: (1) discipline problems (2) poor work ethic and (3) unsatisfactory production. See Affidavit of Edgar Fannin, p. 1, ¶ 5. Mr. McNabb has only offered a statement in his complaint that "[he] always performed his duties and responsibilities in a satisfactory manner." See Plaintiff's Complaint, p. 2, ¶ 7. That statement is nothing more than "plaintiff's perception of [himself]" which "is not relevant." Webb, 992 F.Supp. At 1387. Thus Mr. McNabb cannot dispute his discipline problems, his poor work ethic and his unsatisfactory production and therefore has absolutely no evidence that Sanders Lead's legitimate nondiscriminatory reasons for his discharge were pretextual.

Sanders Lead has come forward with legitimate nondiscriminatory reasons for Mr. McNabb's discharge supported by sworn declarations. Mr. McNabb has no evidence to dispute the facts contained in the declarations concerning the discipline problems, poor work ethic and unsatisfactory production that led to his discharge. Accordingly, Mr. McNabb has no evidence of pretext and summary judgment should be awarded in favor

of Sanders Lead.

2. All of the evidence supports the fact that Sanders Lead's decision to discharge Mr. McNabb was based on legitimate nondiscriminatory reasons.

Mr. McNabb has presented no relevant evidence to dispute the fact that he developed discipline problems, poor work ethic and unsatisfactory production during his employment at Sanders Lead. Mr. McNabb also cannot establish that in light of all the evidence, discriminatory reasons more likely motivated the decision to discharge him than Sanders Lead's proffered reasons. Indeed, all of the evidence in this case firmly supports Sanders Lead's position.

First, there has been no evidence presented that Sanders Lead ever made any specific remarks or comments about Mr. McNabb's age. Further, Mr. McNabb cannot dispute the fact that Sanders Lead was aware he was over 40 years of age when they hired him on September 8, 1992 and rehired him on November 16, 1992. Mr. McNabb's date of birth is August 30, 1951. See attached exhibit 34, Mr. McNabb's Employment Eligibility Verification Form. Mr. McNabb was hired on September 8, 1992 by Sanders Lead. See attached exhibit 35. Mr. McNabb quit working at Sanders Lead on October 15, 1992. See attached exhibit 36. Sanders Lead rehired Mr. McNabb on November 16, 1992. See attached exhibit 37. Mr. McNabb was subsequently discharged in January 2006. At both times of hire, Mr. McNabb was 41 years of age. Mr. McNabb was subsequently discharged in January 2006 by Bart Sanders, Sam Kitchens and Edgar Fannin. The fact that Sanders Lead hired and fired Plaintiff with full knowledge of his status as a member of the protected class cuts against any claim that age discrimination played

a role in Mr. McNabb's termination. *See Kossow v. St. Thomas University Inc.*, 42 F.Supp.2d 1312, 1316 (S.D.Fla. 1999); see also Proud v. Stone, 945 F.2d 796,797 (4th Cir. 1991); *Brown v. CSC Logic, Inc.*, 82 F.3d 651, 658 (5th Cir. 1996); *EEOC v. Our Lady of Resurrection Med. Ctr.*, 77 F.3d 145, 152 (7th Cir. 1996); *Lowe v. J.B. Hunt Transport, Inc.*, 963 F.2d 173, 174-175 (8th Cir. 1992); *Bradley v. Harcourt Brace and Co.*, 104 F.3d 267, 270-71 (9th Cir. 1996). Additionally, Mr. McNabb was one of numerous employees at Sanders Lead. Of those employees, several are over the age of 40 presently and at the time they were hired, as Mr. McNabb was. *See Affidavit of Sam Kitchens, p. 2*, ¶ 11.

Further, in Mr. McNabb's complaint, he states that "[u]pon information and belief, Sanders Lead continued to hire younger less qualified applicants." See Plaintiff's Complaint, p. 3, ¶ 13. There has been no evidence presented by the Plaintiff at any time to support this contention. The only evidence presented of Sanders Lead attempting to hire anyone, let alone a younger employee to replace Mr. McNabb, is a classified ad placed in the local newspaper on March 10, 2006 that stated the company was hiring employees for the furnace department and the casting and alloy department. As stated previously, one element Mr. McNabb must prove in an ADEA action is that he was replaced by someone outside of the protected group. Zaben, 129 F.3d at 1457 (citing Castle v. Sangamo Weston. Inc., 837 F.2d 1550, 1558 (11th Cir. 1980)). The advertisement only shows that Sanders Lead was looking to hire employees more than two months after a work force reduction. There is no evidence that infers Sanders Lead was looking for replacement employees for the workers that were discharged during the work force reduction. Instead, Sanders Lead was looking for replacement employees for

employees who had left the company after the work force reduction. See Affidavit of Bart Sanders, p. 2, ¶ 11 and also see Affidavit of Sam Kitchens, p. 1, ¶ 8.

All of the facts in this case support Sanders Lead's position that it terminated Mr. McNabb for legitimate nondiscriminatory reasons. Plaintiff has no evidence that these reasons were false or that the real reason was unlawful age discrimination. Accordingly, Sanders Lead is entitled to a summary judgment as a matter of law.

V ARGUMENT AGAINST PLAINTIFF'S RETALIATION CLAIM

In order to establish a *prima facie* case for retaliation under Title VII, Mr. McNabb must show: "that (1) [he] engaged in ... statutorily protected expression; (2) [he] suffered an adverse employment action; and (3) there is a causal [connection] between the two events." *Shannon v. Bellsouth Telecommunications, Inc.*, 292 F.3d 712, 715 (11th Cir.2002) (citation omitted). Once "a plaintiff makes out a *prima facie* case of retaliation, the burden shifts to the defendant to produce legitimate reasons for the adverse employment action." *Id.* (citation omitted). "If the defendant does so, the plaintiff must show that the reasons the defendant gave were pretextual." *Id.*

In this case, Mr. McNabb has not presented sufficient evidence to establish a prima facie case of retaliation.

A. Because Mr. McNabb cannot establish a prima facie case of retaliation, Sanders Lead is entitled to summary judgment as a matter of law.

To establish a prima facie case of retaliation, a plaintiff must establish three elements: (1) he engaged in statutorily protected expression; (2) he suffered adverse employment action; and (3) there was a causal connection between the two. *Shannon v.*

Bellsouth Telecommunications, Inc., 292 F.3d 712, 715 (11th Cir.2002) (citation omitted). Plaintiff's case fails because he cannot establish the third element.

Sanders Lead stipulates that Mr. McNabb engaged in statutorily protected expression and that not rehiring him in May of 2006 was an adverse employment action. However, Mr. McNabb has not provided any evidence that there was any connection to the two. At the time Mr. McNabb applied for a position, Sanders Lead was not hiring. Further, even if Sanders Lead was hiring, it is unlikely that Mr. McNabb would have been considered due to his past work performance which included discipline problems, poor work ethic and unsatisfactory production. Accordingly, Mr. McNabb has no evidence of a causal connection between his filing of a complaint with the EEOC and Sanders Lead not rehiring him. Therefore, because Mr. McNabb cannot establish a prima facie case of retaliation summary judgment should be awarded in favor of Sanders Lead.

B. Mr. McNabb cannot establish that Sanders Lead's legitimate, nondiscriminatory reason for not rehiring him is pretextual.

Again, even assuming *arguendo*, that Plaintiff can establish a prima facie case of retaliation, his claim is still subject to dismissal on summary judgment because he has no evidence that Sanders Lead's legitimate nondiscriminatory reasons for its decision to not rehire him are pretextual.

An employer need only produce a neutral reason for not rehiring a previously terminated employee. *Smith v. State of Georgia*, 749 F.2d 683, 687 (11th Cir. 1985). Mr. McNabb applied for employment at Sanders Lead on May 24, 2006. At that time, Sanders Lead was not hiring people in the casting and alloy department.

Additionally, Mr. McNabb was discharged in January of 2006 as part of a work force

reduction mandated by the management of Sanders Lead. See Affidavit of Bart Sanders, p. 2, ¶ 8 and also see Affidavit of Edgar Fannin, p. 1, ¶ 7. Sanders Lead discharged Mr. McNabb as part of the work force reduction for the following reasons: (1) discipline problems (2) poor work ethic and (3) unsatisfactory production. see Affidavit of Edgar Fannin, p. 2, ¶ 7. Mr. McNabb has only offered a statement in his complaint that "[he] always performed his duties and responsibilities in a satisfactory manner." See Plaintiff's Complaint, p. 2, ¶ 7. That statement is nothing more than "plaintiff's perception of [himself]" which "is not relevant." Webb v. R&B Holding Company, Inc., 992 F.Supp. 1382, 1387 (S.D.Fla. 1998)(citing Smith v. Flax, 618 F.2d 1062, 1067 (4th Cir. 1980)). Thus Mr. McNabb cannot dispute that he had discipline problems, a poor work ethic and unsatisfactory production towards the latter part of his employment at Sanders Lead.

Those same reasons for Mr. McNabb's discharge, together with the fact that Sanders Lead was not hiring at the time Mr. McNabb applied for employment are the reasons Mr. McNabb was not rehired. See Affidavit of Sam Kitchens, p. 2, ¶ 12 and also see Affidavit of Edgar Fannin, p. 2, ¶ 11. Therefore, Mr. McNabb has absolutely no evidence that Sanders Lead's legitimate nondiscriminatory reasons for not rehiring him are pretextual.

Sanders Lead has come forward with legitimate nondiscriminatory reasons for Mr. McNabb's not being rehired supported by sworn declarations. Mr. McNabb has no evidence to dispute the facts contained in the declarations concerning the discipline problems, poor work ethic and unsatisfactory production that led to his original discharge. Further, Mr. McNabb has no evidence to dispute the fact contained in Sam Kitchens'

declaration that at the time Mr. McNabb sought to be rehired, Sanders Lead was not hiring anyone. Accordingly, Mr. McNabb has no evidence of pretext and summary judgment should be awarded in favor of Sanders Lead as to the retaliation claim.

C. All of the evidence supports the fact that Sanders Lead's decision to discharge Mr. McNabb was based on legitimate nondiscriminatory reasons.

The only evidence Mr. McNabb has produced since the beginning of this case that Sanders Lead was even hiring employees for the casting and alloy department is an advertisement placed in the Troy Messenger, Troy's local newspaper, that states Sanders Lead was seeking employees for the furnace department and the casting and alloy department. That ad was placed March 10, 2006, two months and two weeks prior to Mr. McNabb applying for a job. See Affidavit of Sam Kitchens, p. 2, ¶ 9. As stated previously, at the time Mr. McNabb applied for a position, Sanders Lead was not hiring. Further, even if Sanders Lead was hiring, it is unlikely that Mr. McNabb would have been considered due to his past work performance. See Affidavit of Edgar Fannin, p. 2, ¶ 11. Mr. McNabb does not have any other evidence to support his claim he was retaliated against by Sanders Lead not rehiring him after he reapplied.

Mr. McNabb has presented no relevant evidence to dispute the fact that he developed discipline problems, poor work ethic and unsatisfactory production during his employment at Sanders Lead. Mr. McNabb also cannot establish that in light of all the evidence, discriminatory reasons more likely motivated the decision to not rehire him than Sanders Lead's proffered reasons. Indeed, all of the evidence in this case firmly supports Sanders Lead's position.

All of the facts in this case support Sanders Lead's position that it did not rehire Mr. McNabb for legitimate nondiscriminatory reasons. Plaintiff has no evidence that these reasons were false or that the real reason was unlawful retaliation. Accordingly, Sanders Lead is entitled to a summary judgment as a matter of law.

VI CONCLUSION

Based upon the foregoing, it is evident Mr. McNabb cannot carry his burden of proving the essential elements to each and every cause of action asserted against Sanders Lead in his Complaint. Therefore, Sanders Lead respectfully requests this Honorable Court enter summary judgment in its favor as to all claims asserted against it by Mr. McNabb.

WHEREFORE, ABOVE-PREMISES CONSIDERED, because Plaintiff cannot present sufficient evidence to support his claims for age discrimination or retaliation, Defendant respectfully requests this Honorable Court grant summary judgment as to each and every claim asserted against Defendant by Plaintiff in this matter and that it dismiss Plaintiff's claims with prejudice.

Respectfully submitted this the 25th day of May, 2007.

s/ N.J. Cervera N.J. Cervera (CER001)

s/ Frank P. Ralph Frank P. Ralph (RAL002)

s/ Grady A. Reeves Grady A. Reeves (REE042)

s/ Matthew M. Baker Matthew M. Baker (BAK017) OF COUNSEL: CERVERA, RALPH, & REEVES, LLC 914 South Brundidge Street P.O. Box 325 Troy, Alabama 36081 phone (334) 566-0116 fax (334) 566-4073

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have served a copy of the foregoing document by placing the same in the U.S. Mail, postage prepaid and properly addressed to:

Roderick T. Cooks, Esq. WINSTON COOKS, LLC The Penick Building 319 17th Street North Birmingham, Alabama 35203

this the 25th day of May, 2007.

s/ N.J. Cervera
OF COUNSEL



STATE OF ALABAMA COUNTY OF PIKE

AFFIDAVIT OF EDGAR FANNIN

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned attesting officer duly authorized by law to administer oaths, Edgar Fannin, who is known to me, after being first duly sworn, deposes and under oath states as follows:

- My name is Edgar Fannin. I am a resident and citizen of the State of Alabama, and I am over twenty-one years of age. I have personal knowledge of the facts contained in this affidavit.
- I have been employed at Sanders Lead Company, Inc. for over 28 years and for the last 14, I have been employed as the department supervisor for the casting and alloy department at Sanders Lead Company, Inc.
- As department supervisor, I am in charge of overseeing all personnel, their production and the day to day operations in the casting and alloy department.
- I personally know Mr. Maxie McNabb and have personal knowledge of the events surrounding his termination.
- 5. I have been the department head for Mr. McNabb's department for over 14 years. Over time, Mr. McNabb's work ethic lessened and his discipline problem grew. Also, in the months proceeding his discharge, his work production sank to an unsatisfactory level.
- 6. In late December of 2005, Mr. Bart Sanders, our plant manager, instructed me to implement a work force reduction in my department. He told me to look at employees who were not meeting production, had a poor work ethic

or had discipline problems.

- 7. I discharged four employees from the casting and alloy department. Mr. McNabb was one of them. He displayed all three characteristics described by my plant manager. I even discussed the discharge with Mr. McNabb before it happened and he was in agreement, stating that the job was just getting too difficult for him.
- 8. Along with Mr. McNabb, three other employees were discharged as part of the work force reduction. There ages were 19, 24 and 41 at the time of their discharge. They were selected for the same reasons as Mr. McNabb. In my opinion, at the time of their discharge, they all had poor work ethic, disciplinary problems or unsatisfactory production.
- 9. Maxie McNabb's employment was terminated as part of a work force reduction plan implemented by the company. He was selected because he had poor work ethic, poor production and discipline problems.
- 10. Mr. McNabb was not terminated because of his age. Mr. McNabb's age played no part whatsoever in the decision to terminate his employment.
- 11. I was unaware that Mr. McNabb filed an application to be rehired. At the time he filed the application, the casting and alloy department was at full capacity. However, had I known he was seeking to be rehired and we had open positions, I would not have recommended him for rehire due to the poor work ethic, unsatisfactory production and discipline problems he developed in the latter stages of his employment, along with his admission to me that the reason for his problems was the difficulty of the work.

- 12. In addition to the warning notices contained in Mr. McNabb's personnel file, I have had numerous discussions with him concerning the same matters over the course of his employment. These became more numerous in the last two years of his employment.
- 13. Sanders Lead Company, Inc. does not discriminate in anyway whatsoever. Any form of discrimination including, but not limited to, race, color, sex religion, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, or veteran status is not tolerated. Mr. McNabb was not discriminated against because of his age.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this _______day of May, 2007.

Edgar Fannin, Affiant

STATE OF ALABAMA COUNTY OF PIKE

Before me, the undersigned authority, in and for said State and County, personally appeared Edgar Fannin, who being by me first duly sworn, deposes and says that the facts alleged in the foregoing affidavit are true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Sworn to and subscribed to before me this 23rd day of May, 2007

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 9-28-2016

SANDERS LEAD COMPANY

EXHIBIT 2

WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

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	Signature of Recipient

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age 1EX HIBIT 3

WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

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SANDERS LEAD COMPANY

EXHIBIT 4

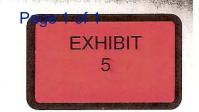
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SANDERS LEAD COMPANY



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EXHIBIT 6

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	Signature of Recipient
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WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

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SANDERS LEAD COMPANY

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WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

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SANDERS LEAD COMPANY

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SANDERS LEAD COMPANY

WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

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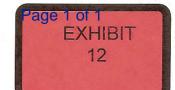


WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

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CANARY TO PERS PINK to DEPT. SUI	SONNEL PERVISOR
	No. 1751 Name Maxie Mc Nabb
	This is to notify you of disobedience to Company rules Inefficiency Neglect
	or etc. (6-18-00) For not calling in or coming to work.
	Remarks
1	Offense 1st 2nd 3rd Penalty
	Date 6-20-00 Dept. Head Mrn. Murdin
	Signature of Recipient M William Market
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CANARY TO PERS	WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE SONNEL PERVISOR No. 1751 Name Maxie Malle This is to notify you of disobedience to Company rules inefficiency in Neglect in or etc. Remarks to work on 3-23-00.

Signature of Recipient

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WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

WHITE to EMPLICANARY TO PERINK to DEPT. S	RSONNEL
	No. 1751 Name Maxie Mc Nabb
	This is to notify you of disobedience to Company rules Inefficiency Neglect
	or etc. For not coming to work 12-27-00 and not bringing a doctors
and the state of t	Remarks <u>excuse</u>
	Offense 1 1st 2nd 3rd Penalty Written Warning
	Date 12-28-00 Dept. Head John Mudix
	Signature of Recipient
	SANDERS LEAD COMPANY
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	WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE OYEE RSONNEL SUPERVISOR
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Signature of Recipient

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SANDERS LEAD COMPANY

EXHIBIT 13

WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

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	No. 1751 Name Maxie Mc Nabb
	or etc. Misconduct, Insubordnation, Mr. Mc Nahb has an afficience
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)	Offense 1 1st - 12nd 1 3rd Penalty Find Warning Sent Home
	Date 3-27-01 Dept. Head John Munday
	Signature of Recipient Walter

SANDERS LEAD COMPANY

WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

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WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE



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						12 · M · 11
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SANDERS LEAD COMPANY

WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

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	Signature of Recipient

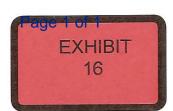
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EXHIBIT 15

WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

	No Name maxie m= nabl
	This is to notify you of disobedience to Company rules \(\begin{align*}
	or etc. Late for Work
	Remarks
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	Date 8-4-0) Dept. Head mitch Jones
	Signature of Recipient
	SANDERS LEAD COMPANY
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Signature of Recipient



WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

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	Signatur	re of Recipient	de	M. onless, W.	Challe &

EXHIBIT 18

WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

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	or etc. Absent without a valid doctors excuse on 10-14-02.
	Remarks
7 -	Offense 1st 2nd 23rd Penalty Final Warning
	Date 10-15-02 Dept. Head Shu Mudy
	Signature of Recipient Monthly MM AM
	SANDERS LEAD COMPANY WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE
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CANARY	WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE EMPLOYEE TO PERSONNEL EPT. SUPERVISOR No. 1751 Name Maxic Mc Nabb This is to notify you of disobedience to Company rules Inefficiency Neglect or etc. For being late for work on 5-28-02 Remarks

WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

EXHIBIT 19

	No. 1751 Name Maxie McNabb
	This is to notify you of disobedience to Company rules 🖾 Inefficiency 🚇 Neglect 📮
	or etc. Smoking in bothmom, caught by security quard.
	Remarks Dheyed the order of the security guard.
	Offense 1st 2nd 3rd Penalty Sent Home
	Date 12-11-02 Dept. Head John Mushing
	Signature of Recipient May 11 May 1
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	or etc. Late for work
	Remarks
	Offense 1 1st 2nd 1 3rd Penalty Written Warrang
	Date 11-19-02 Dept. Head mitch Jone
	Signature of Recipient

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	SANDERS LEAD COMPANY	
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	or etc. Absent without notice. 5-4-03	
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	Signature of Recipient A whin Many	
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WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

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	or etc.	Tardiness				
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Case 2:06-cv-00664-MHT-SRW Document 10-23 Filed 05/25/2007 SANDERS LEAD COMPANY

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WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

WHITE to EMPLOYEE
CANARY TO PERSONNEL
PINK to DEPT. SUPERVISOR

No. 1751 Name Maxic MoNGbb
This is to notify you of disobedience to Company rules 🗓 Inefficiency 🖫 Neglect 🖫
oreic. Absent without notice. Extending an approved leave of absence
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Signature of Recipient Who was I William I was a second of the second of

SANDERS LEAD COMPANY

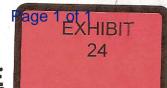
WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

No. 1751 Name Maxie Mc Nabb
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or otc. Absent without notice on 8-16-03. Falsification of document to
Remarks be excused from work dated 8-17-03. For bring a false doctors excuse
8-17-03 to be excused from being absent 8-16-03. Next time you will be "FIRED."
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SANDERS LEAD COMPANY WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

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Case 2:06-cv-00664-MISANDERSIDE ADSCOMPANY007



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	Date 1-14-04 Dept. Head 100
	Mr. all which
SLC-KW-WN9-2002	Signature of Recipient

Case 2:06-cv-00664-MISANDERSILE AD6COMPANY007

WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE



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	Offense 1st 2nd 3rd Penalty Worthen Warning
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SLC-KW-WN9-2002	Signature of Recipient
\	SANDERS LEAD COMPANY
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	WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE
WHITE to EMPLOY CANARY TO PERS PINK to DEPT. SU	SONNEL
	No. 1751 Name Maxie McNabb
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	or etc. Absent without a valid doctor's excuse on 4-5-04,
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	Or etc. Absent without a valid doctor's excuse on 4-5-04, Remarks Next time you will be suspended without pay.
	oretc. Absent without a valid doctor's excuse on 4-5-04,
	Or etc. Absent without a valid doctor's excuse on 4-5-04, Remarks Next time you will be suspended without pay.

Case 2:06-cv-00664-MHTSRWDERS LEAD COMPANY

EXHIBIT 26

WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

WHITE to EMPLOYEE
CANARY TO PERSONNEL
PINK to DEPT. SUPERVISOR

SLC-KW-WN9-2002

PINK to DEPT. SU	PERVISOR
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	or etc. Absent without notice on 5-12-04. Come to work if you want to Remarks Keep your job.
	Offense 1st 2nd 3rd Penalty Final Warning
	Date 5-13-04 Dept. Head Ahr Mundig
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Signature of Recipient .

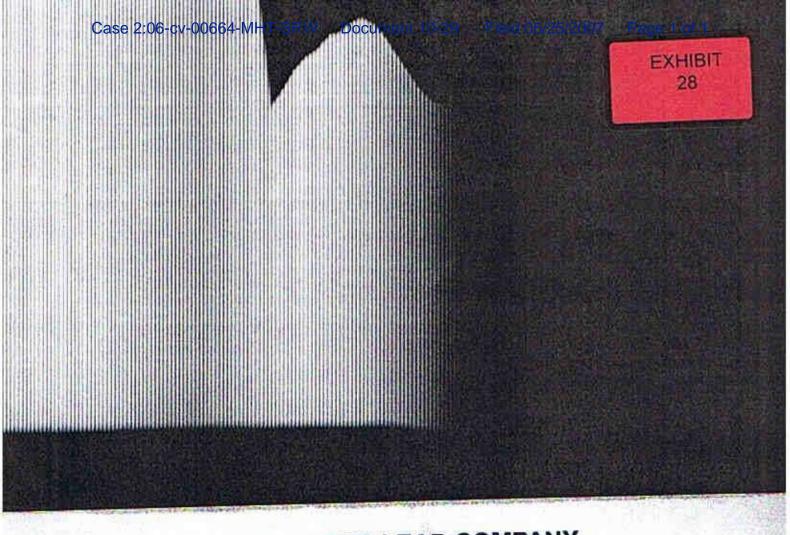
Case 2:06-cv-0066454410564RS CEAD COMPANY 25/2007

WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

EXHIBIT 27

WHITE to EMPLOYEE CANARY TO PERSONNEL PINK to DEPT. SUPERVISOR

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	This is to notify you of disobedience to Company rules Inefficiency Neglect
	or etc. <u>Late</u>
	Remarks
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	Offense 1 1st 2nd 3rd Penalty Written Warning
	Date 7-8-04 Dept. Head Than Il wisky
	the ord
V-WN9-2002	Signature of Recipient
	SANDERS LEAD COMPANY WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE
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CANARY TO	WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE PERSONNEL SUPERVISOR
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CANARY TO	WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE PLOYEE PERSONNEL SUPERVISOR No. 1751 Name Maxie McNabb This is to notify you of disobedience to Company rules Inefficiency Neglect or etc. Excessive Absentacism, Absent without notice on Remarks 10-6-04.



SANDERS LEAD COMPANY WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

WHITE to EMPLOYEE CANARY TO PERSONNEL PINK to DEPT. SUPERVISOR

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SLC-KW-WN9-2002

WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

PINK to DEPT. SUPERVISOR CANARY TO PERSONNEL WHITE IO EMPLOYEE

This is to notify you of disobedience to Comp Neglect 12 Inefficiency 2nd Dept. Head SLC-KW-WN9-2002 Signature of Recipient Signature of Recipient SLC-KW-WN9-2002 Dept. Head olad D'sca N Sud osnello Remarks or etc. Delgen This is to notify you of disobedience to Company rules Inefficiency

Case 2:06-cv-00664-MHT-SRW

WHITE to EMPLOYEE CANARY TO PERSONNEL PINK to DEPT. SUPERVISOR

Document 10-30

WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

Filed 05/25/2007 SANDERS LEAD COMPANY

Page 1 of 1

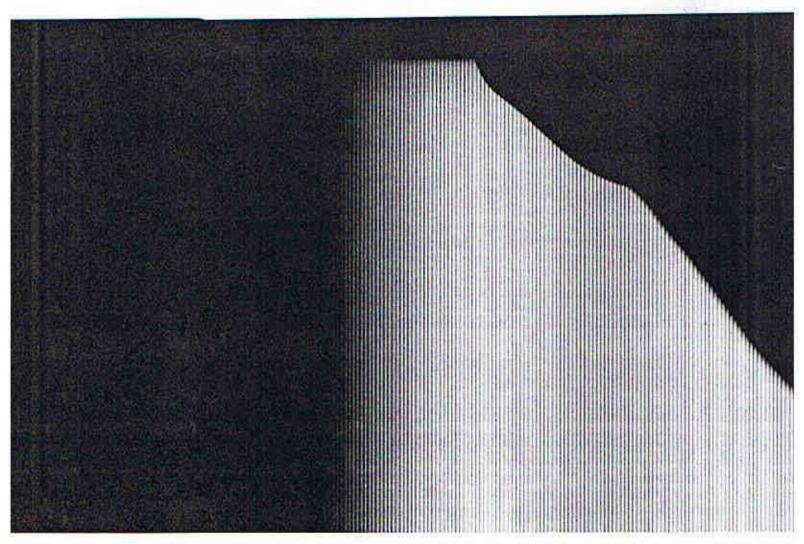
EXHIBIT 29

Case 2:06-cv-00664

PageXIdIBIT 30

WARNING NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

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STATE OF ALABAMA COUNTY OF PIKE

AFFIDAVIT OF BART SANDERS

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned attesting officer duly authorized by law to administer oaths, Bart Sanders, who is known to me, after being first duly sworn, deposes and under oath states as follows:

- My name is Bart Sanders. I am a resident and citizen of the State of Alabama, and I am over twenty-one years of age. I have personal knowledge of the facts contained in this affidavit.
- I am employed as the Plant Manager at Sanders Lead Company, Inc. As
 Plant Manager, I am in charge of all physical operations for Sanders Lead.
- 3. In December of 2005, I implemented a work force reduction at the company.
- 4. I began the process by discussing with the supervisors that a work force reduction would be taking place. They were to choose employees who had poor work ethic, poor production or discipline problems to be discharged.
- Edgar Fannin, the Department Head of Casting and Alloy, chose Maxie
 McNabb to be part of the work force reduction because he met all three criteria.
- Along with Maxie McNabb, three other employees in the casting and alloy department were chosen for similar criteria.
- I gave the go ahead and instructed Edgar Fannin to dismiss all four employees.
- 8. Maxie McNabb's employment was terminated as part of a work force reduction plan implemented by the company. He was selected because he

had poor work ethic, poor production and discipline problems.

- Mr. McNabb was not terminated because of his age. Mr. McNabb's age played no part whatsoever in the decision to terminate his employment.
- 10. Approximately two months later, our work force had dropped to below acceptable limits. I instructed Sam Kitchens to place an advertisement with the Troy Messenger to recruit employees for the casting and alloy department and the furnace department.
- 11. These were not replacement employees for the employees discharged during the work force reduction, rather employees to replace those that had left or been terminated since the reduction.
- 12. Sam Kitchens followed through and we were back at acceptable employment capacity shortly thereafter.
- 13. Sanders Lead Company, Inc. does not discriminate in anyway whatsoever. Any form of discrimination including, but not limited to, race, color, sex religion, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, or veteran status is not tolerated.
- 14. Further, Sanders Lead Company, Inc. does not retaliate against employees who have filed complaints with the EEOC in any way whatsoever and no such retaliation took place against Mr. McNabb.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 23 day of May, 2007.

Bart Sanders, Affiant

STATE OF ALABAMA)
COUNTY OF PIKE)

Before me, the undersigned authority, in and for said State and County, personally appeared Bart Sanders, who being by me first duly sworn, deposes and says that the facts alleged in the foregoing affidavit are true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Sworn to and subscribed to before me this 23 day of May, 2007

Snenda Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 9-28-2010

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DISMISSAL AND NOTICE OF RIGHTS

Page EXHIBIT

To:

Maxie McNabb 109 Crowe Street Troy, AL 36081

From: EEOC

1130 - 22nd Street, South Suite 2000

Birmingham, AL 35205

	On behalf of person(s) a CONFIDENTIAL (29 CF	ggrieved whose identity is R § 1601.7(a))	
EEOC Chan	ge No.	EEOC Representative	Telephone No.
420 2000	6 01686	Jeanne Walker	(205) 212-2055
THE EEO	IS CLOSING ITS FI	LE ON THIS CHARGE FOR THE FOLLOWING RE	ASON:
	The facts alleged in the	harge fail to state a claim under any of the statutes enforced	by the EEOC.
	Your allegations did not i	nvolve a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilitie	es Act.
	The Respondent employ	s less than the required number of employees or is not other	wise covered by the statues.
	Your charge was not time	ly filed with EEOC; in other words, you waited too long after th	e date(s) of the alleged discrimination to file your charge.
		rs in which to respond, you failed to provide information, failed to the extent that it was not possible to resolve your charge	
	While reasonable efforts	were made to locate you; we were not able to do so.	
	You were given 30 days	o accept a reasonable settlement offer that affords full relief	for the harm you alleged.
X	establishes violations of t	lowing determination: Based upon its investigation, the EEC ne statutes. This does not certify that the respondent is in construed as having been raised by this charge.	DC is unable to conclude that the information obtained impliance with the statutes. No finding is made as to any
	The EEOC has adopted	he findings of the state or local fair employment practices ag	ency that investigated this charge.
	Other (briefly state)		
		- NOTICE OF SUIT RIGHTS -	
		(See the additional information attached to this for	
only notice under fede receipt of	e of dismissal and o eral law based on th	Disabilities Act, and/or the Age Discriminal your right to sue that we will send you. You not sharpe in federal or state court. Your lawsuit right to sue based on this charge will be lost. (nay file a lawsuit against the respondent(s) t must be filed WITHIN 90 DAYS of your
alleged EF	A underpayment.	uits must be filed in federal or state court within This means that backpay due for any violation ay not be collectible.	
Enclosure(s)		On behalf of the Commission Bernice Williams-Kimbrough, District Director	00/06/2000 (Date Massed)

fcNahh v. Sanders Lend onaparis, inc

STATE OF ALABAMA COUNTY OF PIKE

AFFIDAVIT OF SAM KITCHENS

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned attesting officer duly authorized by law to administer oaths, Sam Kitchens, who is known to me, after being first duly sworn, deposes and under oath states as follows:

- My name is Sam Kitchens. I am a resident and citizen of the State of Alabama, and I am over twenty-one years of age. I have personal knowledge of the facts contained in this affidavit.
- I am employed as the personnel manager at Sanders Lead Company, Inc.
 and have been for approximately six years. As personnel manager, I am in
 charge of recruiting, managing, and training the employees of Sanders Lead
 Company, Inc.
- 3. One of the aspects of my job is to fill vacant positions at the company. How this works is prospective employees come in and fill out an application. If they are qualified and I have something available, I fill the position. A vacancy is filled on a first come, first serve basis. Accordingly, most vacant positions are filled very early in the week.
- I personally know Mr. Maxie McNabb and have personal knowledge of the events surrounding his termination and him not being rehired.
- In December of 2005, a work force reduction was discussed at the company and it was implemented in January of 2006. As part of that work force reduction, Maxie McNabb was discharged.
- 6. Maxie McNabb's employment was terminated as part of a work force

- reduction plan implemented by the company. He was selected because he had poor work ethic, poor production and discipline problems.
- 7. Mr. McNabb was not terminated because of his age. Mr. McNabb's age played no part whatsoever in the decision to terminate his employment.
- 8. In March of 2006, I placed an advertisement with the Troy Messenger that ran in the March 10 edition seeking employees for the casting and alloy department and the furnace department. This was to replace a number of employees who had left after the work force reduction was instituted.
- 9. On May 24, 2006, Mr. Maxie McNabb came to my office and filled out an application for employment. He asked if I had any available positions and I told him we did not.
- 10. That was my only conversation with Mr. McNabb regarding him wishing to return to work.
- 11. Mr. McNabb not being rehired had nothing at all to do with his age, race, or the fact that he filed a complaint with the EEOC. Several employees at Sanders Lead Company, Inc. are over the age of 40 currently and at the time they were hired. Age is not a factor in determining whether someone is hired or discharged.
- 12. He was simply not rehired because we had no positions available at the time he applied.
- 13. Even if we had positions available at the time he applied, I would have had to discuss the rehire with the department head Edgar Fannin before any decision regarding him returning to work was made.

- 14. Sanders Lead Company, Inc. does not discriminate in anyway whatsoever. Any form of discrimination including, but not limited to, race, color, sex religion, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, or veteran status is not tolerated. Mr. McNabb was not discriminated against because of his age.
- 15. Further, Sanders Lead Company, Inc. does not retaliate against employees who have filed complaints with the EEOC in any way whatsoever and no such retaliation took place against Mr. McNabb.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 23 day of May, 2007.

Sam Kitchens, Affiant

STATE OF ALABAMA COUNTY OF PIKE

Before me, the undersigned authority, in and for said State and County, personally appeared Sam Kitchens, who being by me first duly sworn, deposes and says that the facts alleged in the foregoing affidavit are true and correct to the best of his knowledge and belief.

Sworn to and subscribed to before me this 23rd day of May, 2007

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 4-28

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U.S. Department of Justice Immigration and Naturalization Service

Employmen

Please read instructions carefully before completing this form. The instructions must be available during completion of this form. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE. It is illegal to discriminate against work eligible incividuals. Employers CANNOT specify which document(s) they will accept from an employee. The refusal to hire an individual because of a tuture expiration date may also constitute illegal discrimination.

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City	State	Zo Co	ge is	30 Aug (
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Other Information	Check on (Date)	REASON FOR TERM	Verv
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CHANGE OF EMPLOYEE STATUS

	CHANGE OF EMPLOYEE STATUS	
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